



# Final recommended questions for the 2011 Census in England and Wales

## Housing

**April 2010**

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## 1. Summary

Question development for the 2011 Census began in 2005. An iterative and comprehensive process of user consultation, evaluation and prioritisation of user requirements, and qualitative and quantitative question testing has been carried out to inform the decisions on the questions to be included in the 2011 Census.

Information on the housing topics listed in this paper are used by both local and central government and are needed for resource allocation, the assessment and understanding of housing needs, planning and service delivery as well as policy development and implementation.

This paper outlines the development of the housing questions, drawing on evidence from cognitive question testing as well as evidence from the 2007 Census Test, postal tests and other strands of research.

The questions presented below are those for England and Wales that are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to Parliamentary approval.

**Figure 1.1 Accommodation type – England and Wales (English language version)**

**H7** What type of accommodation is this?

A whole house or bungalow that is:

- detached
- semi-detached
- terraced (including end-terrace)

A flat, maisonette or apartment that is:

- in a purpose-built block of flats or tenement
- part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits)
- in a commercial building (for example, in an office building, hotel, or over a shop)

A mobile or temporary structure:

- a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

**Figure 1.2 Accommodation type – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H7** Pa fath o gartref yw hwn?

Tŷ neu fyngalo cyfan sydd:

- yn adeilad ar wahân
- yn dŷ semi
- yn dŷ teras (gan gynnwys tŷ pen)

Fflat neu maisonette sydd:

- mewn bloc o fflatiau neu denement a adeiladwyd yn bwrpasol
- yn rhan o dŷ wedi'i addasu neu dŷ sy'n cael ei rannu (gan gynnwys fflatiau un ystafell)
- mewn adeilad masnachol (er enghraifft, mewn adeilad o swyddfeydd, gwesty, neu uwchben siop)

Cartref symudol neu dros dro:

- Carafán neu fath arall o gartref symudol neu dros dro

**Figure 1.3 Self-contained accommodation – England and Wales (English language version)**

**H8** Is this household's accommodation self-contained?

➤ This means that all the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet, are behind a door that only this household can use

- Yes, all the rooms are behind a door that only this household can use
- No

**Figure 1.4 Self-contained accommodation – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H8** A yw'r cartref hwn yn hunan-gynhwysol?

➤ Mae hyn yn golygu bod pob ystafell, gan gynnwys y gegin, yr ystafell ymolchi a'r toiled, y tu ôl i ddrws sydd ddim ond yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan aelodau o'r cartref hwn

- Ydy, mae pob ystafell y tu ôl i ddrws sydd ddim ond yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan aelodau o'r cartref hwn
- Nac ydy

**Figure 1.5 Number of rooms - England and Wales (English language version)**

**H9** How many rooms are available for use only by this household?

➤ Do NOT count:

- bathrooms
- toilets
- halls or landings
- rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards

➤ Count all other rooms, for example:

- kitchens
- living rooms
- utility rooms
- bedrooms
- studies
- conservatories

➤ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room

Number of rooms

**Figure 1.6 Number of rooms – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H9** Sawl ystafell sydd yn y cartref hwn at ddefnydd aelodau o'r cartref hwn yn unig?

➤ PEIDIWCH â chyfrif:

- ystafelloedd ymolchi
- toiledau
- cynteddau neu landins
- ystafelloedd sydd ddim ond yn gallu cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer storio, fel cypyrddau

➤ Cofiwch gyfrif pob ystafell arall, er enghraifft:

- ceginau
- ystafelloedd byw
- ystafelloedd iwtiliti
- ystafelloedd gwely
- stydis
- ystafelloedd gwydr

➤ Os bydd dwy ystafell wedi'u cyfuno i fod yn un, cyfrifwch nhw yn un ystafell

Nifer yr ystafelloedd

**Figure 1.7 Number of bedrooms – England and Wales (English language version)**

**H10** How many of these rooms are bedrooms?

➤ Include all rooms built or converted for use as bedrooms, even if they are not currently used as bedrooms

Number of bedrooms

**Figure 1.8 Number of bedrooms – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H10** Faint o'r ystafelloedd hyn sy'n ystafelloedd gwely?

➤ Dylech gynnwys pob ystafell a gafodd ei hadeiladu neu ei throï i'w defnyddio fel ystafell wely, hyd yn oed os nad yw'n cael ei defnyddio fel ystafell wely ar hyn o bryd

Nifer yr ystafelloedd gwely

**Figure 1.9 Type of central heating – England and Wales (English language version)**

**H11** What type of central heating does this accommodation have?

➤ Tick all that apply, whether or not you use it

➤ Central heating is a central system that generates heat for multiple rooms

No central heating

Gas

Electric (including storage heaters)

Oil

Solid fuel (for example wood, coal)

Other central heating

**Figure 1.10 Type of central heating – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H11** Pa fath o wres canolog sydd yn y cartref hwn?

➤ Ticiwch bob blwch sy'n berthnasol, hyd yn oed os nad ydych yn defnyddio'r gwres canolog

➤ System ganolog, sy'n cynhyrchu gwres ar gyfer nifer o ystafelloedd, yw gwres canolog

Dim gwres canolog

Nwy

Trydan (gan gynnwys gwresogyddion stôr)

Olew

Tanwydd solet (er enghraifft coed, glo)

Math arall o wres canolog

**Figure 1.11 Tenure – England and Wales (English language version)**

**H12** Does your household own or rent this accommodation?

➤ Tick one box only

Owns outright ➔ Goto **H14**

Owns with a mortgage or loan ➔ Goto **H14**

Part owns and part rents (shared ownership)

Rents (with or without housing benefit)

Lives here rent free

**Figure 1.12 Tenure – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H12** A yw aelod neu aelodau o'ch cartref yn berchen ar y cartref hwn neu'n ei rentu?

➤ Ticiwch un blwch yn unig

Yn berchen arno'n gyfan gwbl ➔ Ewch i **H14**

Yn berchen arno gyda morgais neu fenthyciad ➔ Ewch i **H14**

Yn berchen arno'n rhannol ac yn ei rentu'n rhannol (cynllun rhan-berchenogaeth)

Yn ei rentu (gyda chymorth budd-dal tai neu hebddo)

Yn byw yma heb dalu rhent

**Figure 1.13 Type of landlord – England and Wales (English language version)**

**H13** Who is your landlord?

➔ Tick one box only

- Housing association, housing co-operative, charitable trust, registered social landlord
- Council (local authority)
- Private landlord or letting agency
- Employer of a household member
- Relative or friend of a household member
- Other

**Figure 1.14 Type of landlord – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H13** Pwy yw eich landlord?

➔ Ticiwch un blwch yn unig

- Cymdeithas dai, cwmni tai cydweithredol, ymddiriedolaeth elusennol, landlord cymdeithasol cofrestredig
- Y cyngor (awdurdod lleol)
- Landlord preifat neu asiantaeth gosod tai
- Cyflogwr aelod o'r cartref
- Perthynas neu ffrind i aelod o'r cartref
- Arall

**Figure 1.15 Number of vehicles – England and Wales (English language version)**

**H14** In total, how many cars or vans are owned, or available for use, by members of this household?

➔ Include any company car(s) or van(s) available for private use

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or more, write in number



**Figure 1.16 Number of vehicles – Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H14** Sawl car neu fan sy'n eiddo i aelodau o'ch cartref, neu sydd ar gael i'w defnyddio ganddynt?

➤ Dylech gynnwys unrhyw gar (geir) neu fan (faniau) cwmni os yw ar gael at ddefnydd preifat

Dim un

1

2

3

4 neu fwy, nodwch y nifer

## 2. Introduction

The next census will take place on 27 March 2011. The proposed topics to be included were announced in the 2011 Census Government White Paper published in December 2008. To access the White Paper and read further information about how the content of the 2011 Census was determined, please refer to the National Statistics website at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/question-and-content-recommendations-for-2011/index.html>

Question development for the 2011 Census began in 2005. An iterative and comprehensive process of user consultation, evaluation and prioritisation of user requirements and qualitative and quantitative question testing has been carried out to inform the decisions on the questions to be included in the 2011 Census. The questions for England and Wales have been developed through close collaboration with the Welsh Assembly and the census offices of Scotland and Northern Ireland. A key aim of this collaboration is to minimise differences between questionnaires across the UK, though it is recognised that differing circumstances will sometimes require different solutions. A paper on the UK differences in census questions will be available on the National Statistics website in 2010.

This paper outlines the development of the housing questions for England and Wales, including the Welsh language versions. The following housing topics are recommended for inclusion in the 2011 Census for England and Wales:

- Accommodation type
- Self-contained accommodation
- Number of rooms
- Number of bedrooms
- Type of central heating
- Tenure
- Type of landlord
- Number of vehicles

The paper briefly outlines the user requirements for each housing topic and then describes the development process for each question. The final recommended questions are presented, along with justification of why the questions differ from the 2001 Census and the impact of the change (where applicable).

### 3. User requirements

The inclusion of questions in the census must be supported by a clear user requirement for the information. The user consultation process for the 2011 Census began in 2005 with a formal three month general topics consultation. A summary of the consultation responses relating to housing topics can be found at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about/consultations/closed-consultations/consultation-on-2011-census---responses/index.html>.

In addition to this, a detailed consultation exercise was carried out in October 2006 to refine the user requirements for information on housing for the 2011 Census. As a key user of census statistics on housing, this consultation exercise included the Department for Communities and Local Government. Also included were the Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP) Census Sub-group<sup>1</sup>, which includes representatives from central and local government, and the ONS Population Definitions Working Group (PDWG) which contains representatives from central and local government, academics and the private sector.

Information on housing is vitally important to central and local government. One local authority stated that there is '*no other source that will adequately support the annual spending in London of £670 million on housing provision*'.

The housing questions outlined in this paper will provide detailed information on housing that will be comparable from the local to national level. Importantly it will be possible to cross-classify the housing data with information collected from the other questions on the census.

The key user needs for each topic are outlined below.

#### 3.1 Accommodation type

A question on accommodation type has been asked since the 1981 Census. It is designed to identify the main types of accommodation occupied by those in private households.

This information is used by central government, local authorities and other users for analysing various aspects of the housing market. It is also used for the distribution of funding to local authorities by central government and for the allocation of housing improvement grants.

Along with other information it helps local authorities assess the availability of, and need for, housing, including requirements for specialist accommodation. It is used in the planning, providing and monitoring of housing services such as refuse collection and recycling.

It also contributes to policy formulation, work on housing growth and affordability and reducing deprivation.

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP) Census Sub-group is available on their website at: <http://www.clip.local.gov.uk/lqv/core/page.do?pageld=31618>

### **3.2 Self-contained accommodation**

A question on self-contained accommodation has been asked since the 1971 Census. In broad terms this question is designed to ascertain whether or not all the rooms used by a household are private and only available for use by that household.

Central government, local authorities and other users have confirmed the ongoing importance of collecting data on self-contained accommodation to assist in the analysis of changes in housing supply and demand, in understanding variations in multiple occupation and in identifying deprived areas.

In addition, this information is essential for the derivation of a count of dwellings. The availability of such data provides a sound basis for comparing household and dwelling counts and establishing the distribution of vacant dwellings in small areas.

Along with other information, data on self-contained accommodation also helps to inform the distribution of funding to local authorities by central government and with the allocation of housing improvement grants.

### **3.3 Number of rooms**

Information on number of rooms has been collected since the 1891 Census. This question is designed to provide information on the number of rooms available for use by household members.

Information on the number of rooms, allows local and central government to identify the number of households living in overcrowded conditions according to the 'room standard'. The room standard is one of two statutory measures of overcrowding, the other being the 'space standard'<sup>2</sup>.

Information on the number of rooms in each household helps central and local government to assess changes in overcrowding, assess the number of households living in unsuitable accommodation, tackle deprivation, develop appropriate housing policies, plan future housing provision and allocate resources.

There is widespread agreement that the census provides the only reliable basis for measuring overcrowding. Shortage of space is seen as a fundamental indicator of housing deprivation and as such constitutes an integral part of the Index of Multiple Deprivation<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, living in overcrowded conditions is associated with adverse personal, social and health effects. For example, living overcrowded conditions can affect children's health and educational attainment and impact negatively on their life chances<sup>4</sup>.

### **3.4 Number of bedrooms**

Number of bedrooms is a newly developed question for inclusion in the 2011 Census, in addition to the long standing question on number of rooms.

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<sup>2</sup> The room standard and space standard are defined in Part ten of the Housing Act 1985.

<sup>3</sup> Index of Multiple Deprivation combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. More information is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) website at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/>

<sup>4</sup> As reported at page 5, section 1 of 'Tackling overcrowding in England: An action plan', which is available on the CLG website at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/Overcrowdingactionplan?version=1>

The number of bedrooms question complements the number of rooms question. Information collected from this question can be used as an additional measure of overcrowded accommodation under the 'bedroom standard'.

Government amendments to the Housing Act 2004, provide for the statutory measurements of overcrowding to be amended by secondary legislation to include the bedroom standard. In December 2007, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) published a paper entitled 'Tackling overcrowding in England: An action plan' which sets out their plans for reducing the number of people living in overcrowded accommodation and explains the use of the bedroom standard<sup>5</sup>.

There is a need for a question on number of bedrooms in order to provide a more accurate and comparable measure of overcrowding. As the above CLG paper mentions, the bedroom standard is thought to be a more accurate measure of overcrowding. Such a measure is seen as essential if government is to tackle underlying inequalities and deal effectively with housing problems in London and other inner city areas.

The information on number of bedrooms will directly support CLG's Departmental Strategic Objective 'To improve the supply, environmental performance and quality of housing that is more responsive to the needs of individuals, communities and the economy'<sup>6</sup>. It will particularly support the part of this objective related to reducing the number of children living in poor housing (non-decent, overcrowded or temporary accommodation).

Information on number of bedrooms is also required by central and local government to support essential work on policy development, monitoring and review. Information will be essential for taking forward work on decent homes<sup>7</sup>. There is also a direct link with the allocation of improvement grants by local authorities. Information from this question will help to ensure that resources are directed to the areas of greatest need.

Information on bedrooms will also be used by local authorities for planning purposes and in the building industry. Moreover, the 'child yield' (by number of bedrooms and tenure) from new homes is commonly used in school roll planning as well as funding negotiations. Child yield relates to the assessment of the impact of new dwellings upon the local education authority's services by introducing additional children to the local school rolls.

### **3.5 Type of central heating**

Information on whether or not a household has central heating has been collected since 1991. Following consultation for the 2011 Census, there is now an additional need for information on the type of central heating in order to contribute to wider work on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

This information will support work on housing deprivation where access to central heating is used as a measure of deprivation and is a key component of the 'Living

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<sup>5</sup> 'Tackling overcrowding in England: An action plan' is available on the CLG website at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/Overcrowdingactionplan?version=1>

<sup>6</sup> CLG has six Departmental Strategic Objectives and more information is available on their website at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/howwework/publicserviceagreements/departmentalstrategicobjectives/>

<sup>7</sup> Further information on decent homes is available on the CLG website at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/decenthomes/whatis/>

Environment Domain' of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Central heating provides a useful indicator of basic housing standards and is widely used to support work on neighbourhood renewal and regeneration.

As an indicator of housing standards and quality, central heating is regarded as one of the essential characteristics of a decent home. Information on the type of central heating that households have contributes to work being undertaken by both central and local government to meet the thermal comfort criteria of the 'decent homes' standard,<sup>8</sup> as well as related work on assessing housing fitness (including health and safety issues such as risks associated with excess cold). For example, information on the numbers and types of homes without access to central heating will be used by local authorities for the development and monitoring of policies to improve housing quality and to direct resources to the areas of greatest need.

### **3.6 Tenure**

Information on tenure has been collected on the census since 1961. This information is used by central and local government in the analysis of changes in the housing stock and the operation of the housing market, as well as for the assessment of the size and relative importance of the public (social housing) and private housing sectors.

It will assist in the understanding of demographic and socio-structural factors affecting the demand for, and availability of, housing at both the national and the local level.

Local authorities use this information for housing and land use planning. In particular, the data are used to ensure that adequate provision has been made to meet community needs and to determine where specific types of properties will be built. In addition, the data contributes to the formulation of local development frameworks and are used to estimate housing supply, produce housing stock estimates, measure housing affordability, deal with housing inequalities and tackle discrimination in relation to social housing.

### **3.7 Type of landlord**

Information on type of landlord has been collected on the census since 2001. In conjunction with information on tenure, the data will be used by central and local government in the analysis of changes in the housing stock and the operation of the housing market as well as the assessment of the relative size and importance of the public (social housing) and private housing sectors.

It will assist in the understanding of demographic and socio-structural factors affecting the demand for, and availability of, housing at both the national and the local level.

Local authorities use this information for housing and land use planning. In particular, the data are used to ensure that adequate provision has been made to meet community needs and to determine where specific types of properties will be built. In addition, the data contribute to the formulation of local development frameworks and are used to estimate housing supply, produce housing stock

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<sup>8</sup> More information on 'decent homes' standard is available from the Homes and Communities Agency at: <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/decenthomes>

estimates, measure housing affordability, deal with housing inequalities and tackle discrimination in relation to social housing.

### **3.8 Number of vehicles**

Information on the number of vehicles available has been asked on the census since 1961. It is used by central and local government to support work on transport policy and planning at national, regional and local levels. In particular, the data provides a consistent and comprehensive basis for assessing and understanding differences in the use of cars and travel behaviour.

Car use is an important factor in determining the travel choices people make and as a result this information will be used in the development of transport policies and plans, estimating public transport demand and assessing car parking requirements.

The information supports transport funding decisions and work on road building, public transport provision, improving air quality, measuring traffic volumes, reducing congestion, developing sustainable transport, and planning more efficient and effective integrated transport systems.

## 4. Process of question testing

### 4.1 Qualitative testing

#### 4.1.1 Cognitive testing

Data Collection Methodology (DCM) within ONS was commissioned to carry out a programme of cognitive question testing on Census questions in English and in Welsh. The English language testing began in February 2005, and the Welsh language testing began in October 2007. The aim of this testing was to develop questions that collect accurate and meaningful information that meet user requirements, minimise the burden on respondents and are designed to conform as closely as possible to best practice of questionnaire design. The testing was split into four main phases:

- Pre-testing for the 2007 Census Test (February 2005 – April 2006)
  
- Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test (June 2006 – August 2006)
  
- Testing for the 2009 Census Rehearsal
  - **Wave 1** (November 2006 to January 2007)
  - **Wave 2** (April to May 2007)
  - **Wave 3** (July to September 2007)
  - **Wave 4** (October and November 2007)
  - **Wave 5** (January to March 2008)
  - **Wave 6** (April to July 2008 )
  - **Welsh language testing, Wave 1** (October to November 2007)
  - **Welsh language testing, Wave 2** (June to July 2008)
  
- Testing for the 2011 Census
  - **Wave 7** (March to April 2009)
  - **Whole questionnaire testing - English language** (June to July 2009)
  - **Whole questionnaire testing - Welsh language** (June to July 2009)

The questions on accommodation type, self-contained accommodation, number of rooms, type of central heating, tenure, landlord and number of vehicles, have been tested since the pre-testing for the 2007 Test. The question on number of bedrooms was first tested in Wave 4 of 2009 Census Rehearsal testing.

### 4.2 Quantitative testing

#### 4.2.1 Lambeth Postal Test

From June to July 2006, a test of postal enumeration procedures was carried out in the London Borough of Lambeth. Although this test was designed to test aspects of the field operation for the 2011 Census, it allowed the opportunity to analyse and evaluate the performance of the questions. A response rate of 25 per cent was obtained and 366 household questionnaires were returned, giving 787 individual respondents. Some of this data was analysed to help inform the development of the housing questions prior to the 2007 Census Test.



#### **4.2.2 2007 Postal Test**

The ONS Questionnaire Design and Content team ran a postal test of 10,400 households across England in April 2007. Although the main objective of this test was aimed at testing issues related to questionnaire length, it also provided valuable information on the acceptability and understanding of definitions and questions.

It included questions on accommodation type, self-contained accommodation, number of rooms, central heating, tenure, type of landlord and number of vehicles.

#### **4.2.3 2007 Census Test**

A large scale Census Test was carried out covering 100,000 households in England and Wales on 13 May 2007. The Test took place in Bath and North East Somerset, Camden, Carmarthenshire, Liverpool and Stoke-on-Trent. This allowed the opportunity to test new and updated questions.

It included questions on accommodation type, self-contained accommodation, number of rooms, central heating, tenure, type of landlord and number of vehicles.

A detailed evaluation of the 2007 Test can be found on the National Statistics website at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/2007-test/index.html>

#### **4.2.4 2008 Postal Test**

In July 2008 two postal surveys were carried out, each with a sample of 10,200 households, one across England and the other in Northampton. The main purpose was to test any impact on response rates of including a question on intended length of stay in the UK. The test also allowed valuable analysis to be conducted on the performance of the questions developed for the 2009 Rehearsal.

The test included a new question on number of bedrooms and a revised central heating question which included the type of central heating. It also included questions on accommodation type, self-contained accommodation, number of rooms, central heating, tenure, type of landlord and number of vehicles.

#### **4.2.5 March 2009 Postal Test**

In March 2009, a postal test was conducted with the primary aim of assisting the development of questions relating to the student population. 20,000 questionnaires were sent to areas of England selected for characteristics that were desirable for the purposes of the test.

#### **4.2.6 July 2009 Postal Test**

In July 2009, a postal test was conducted with the primary aim of testing the questions relating to ethnicity and identity. 27,000 questionnaires were sent to areas of England selected for characteristics that were desirable for the purposes of the test.

## 5. Development of the questions

This section provides a detailed description of how each question evolved from the beginning of testing through to the finalisation of the question. It uses evidence gathered from all the strands of testing described in the previous section.

### 5.1 Accommodation type

Evidence from the 'Census 2001 Quality Report for England and Wales'<sup>9</sup> suggests that this question worked well in 2001. Non-response was low at 3.0 per cent and agreement between the answers given in the census and the Census Quality Survey was 95.5 per cent. As a result the question did not change between the 2001 Census (Figure 5.1.1) and pre-testing for the 2007 Census Test.

**Figure 5.1.1 – 2001 Census accommodation type question**

**H1 What type of accommodation does your household occupy?**

**A whole house or bungalow that is:**

- Detached
- Semi-detached
- Terraced (including end-terrace)

**A flat, maisonette, or apartment that is:**

- In a purpose-built block of flats or tenement
- Part of a converted or shared house (includes bed-sits)
- In a commercial building (for example, in an office building, or hotel, or over a shop)

**Mobile or temporary structure:**

- A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

During this phase of testing a few issues arose. Respondents whose houses had been converted found this question unclear and were unsure which box to tick, while other respondents sometimes missed the second and third set of tick boxes, assuming that the categories ended at 'terraced'. Also, respondents commented that there was a type of house which was connected by a garage and no other room, called a 'linked-detached' house. This issue was also identified in the quality report.

For Wave 1 and 2 of Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test and the 2007 Census Test, an additional category was added to the question to describe houses that were linked by a garage. Two different types of wording were used in testing, 'linked-detached' and 'linked by a garage'.

<sup>9</sup> 'Census 2001 Quality Report for England and Wales' is available on the National Statistics website at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14212>

Respondents were generally still able to identify their accommodation type, but some respondents had difficulty in understanding the new terms. Following concerns that the new category could affect comparability with previous census data and that census users did not need this separate category, it was decided not to include this category.

The question used for the 2007 Census Test generally appeared to work well (Figure 5.1.2). Results from the test showed that non-response to the question was low at 3.1 per cent and that those ticking multiple responses was also low at 1.5 per cent of responses. In addition, no significant difficulties were identified from helpline enquires during the test.

**Figure 5.1.2 - 2007 Census Test question**

**H7** What type of accommodation does your household occupy?

A whole house or bungalow that is:

- Detached
- Semi-detached
- Linked by a garage
- Terraced (including end-terrace)

A flat, maisonette, or apartment that is:

- In a purpose-built block of flats or tenement
- Part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits)
- In a commercial building (for example, in an office building, hotel, or over a shop)

A mobile or temporary structure:

- A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

For Wave 2 of testing for the 2009 Census Rehearsal, the question was reworded slightly to 'What type of accommodation is this?' (Figure 5.1.4). This was done to make the question more relevant for people who are not staying in the place where they usually live on census night, for example staying in holiday accommodation. The categories remained unchanged.

**Figure 5.1.3 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing, Wave 2 question**

**H7** What type of accommodation is this?

A whole house or bungalow that is:

- Detached
- Semi-detached
- Terraced (including end-terrace)

A flat, maisonette or apartment that is:

- In a purpose-built block of flats or tenement
- Part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits)
- In a commercial building (for example, in an office building, hotel, or over a shop)

A mobile or temporary structure:

- A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

This question was generally understood well by respondents. However, non-UK born respondents often expressed uncertainty when answering this question, explaining that they were not familiar with these descriptive categories. Therefore it seemed that this question may cause some difficulty for non-UK born respondents who are unfamiliar with the British housing categories, but that it worked well for other respondents.

Three waves of Welsh language testing took place alongside Waves 3 and 6 of English language 2009 Census Rehearsal testing, and Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2011 Census. The word 'apartment' was not included in the first wave of Welsh language question (Figure 5.1.4) as the translation of this word, i.e. 'rhandy', is not a familiar term.

**Figure 5.1.4 – Welsh language testing Wave 1**

**H7** Sut fath o gartref yw hwn?

Tŷ neu fyngalo cyfan sydd:

- ar wahân
- yn dŷ semi
- yn dŷ teras (gan gynnwys tŷ pen)

Maisonette neu fflat sydd:

- mewn bloc o fflatiau neu denement sydd wedi'u hadeiladu'n bwrpasol
- yn rhan o dŷ wedi'i addasu neu dŷ a gaiff ei rannu (gan gynnwys fflatiau un ystafell)
- mewn adeilad masnachol (er enghraifft, mewn adeilad swyddfa, gwesty, neu uwchben siop)

Cartref symudol neu dros dro:

- Carafân neu gartref symudol neu dros dro arall

However, respondents who lived in apartments ticked 'in a purpose-built block of flats or tenement' and were happy with this description of their home.

Later testing showed that this question was understood well by respondents. However, some non-UK born respondents were unsure of the meaning of some of the categories, as had been found for the English language testing. These respondents referred to the English questionnaire for clarification, which did not help them. Nevertheless, these respondents did answer the question correctly.

In the 2008 postal test this question again appeared to work well. Non-response to this question was low at 1.2 per cent and the percentage of people ticking multiple responses in error was also low at 0.2 per cent. This was also true in the March 2009 postal test where non-response was 1.5 per cent and multiple responses were 0.4 per cent.

In the final phases of testing this question continued to work well. The question that was recommended for use in the 2009 Census Rehearsal is also the one that is recommended for the 2011 Census.

### 5.1.1 Final recommended accommodation type question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

**Figure 5.1.1.1 - Final question for England and Wales (English language version)**

**H7** What type of accommodation is this?

A whole house or bungalow that is:

- detached
- semi-detached
- terraced (including end-terrace)

A flat, maisonette or apartment that is:

- in a purpose-built block of flats or tenement
- part of a converted or shared house (including bedsits)
- in a commercial building (for example, in an office building, hotel, or over a shop)

A mobile or temporary structure:

- a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

**Figure 5.1.1.2 – Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)**

**H7** Pa fath o gartref yw hwn?

Tŷ neu fyngalo cyfan sydd:

- yn adeilad ar wahân
- yn dŷ semi
- yn dŷ teras (gan gynnwys tŷ pen)

Fflat neu maisonette sydd:

- mewn bloc o fflatiau neu denement a adeiladwyd yn bwrpasol
- yn rhan o dŷ wedi'i addasu neu dŷ sy'n cael ei rannu (gan gynnwys fflatiau un ystafell)
- mewn adeilad masnachol (er enghraifft, mewn adeilad o swyddfeydd, gwesty, neu uwchben siop)

Cartref symudol neu dros dro:

- Carafán neu fath arall o gartref symudol neu dros dro

### 5.2 Self-contained accommodation

Evidence from the 2001 Census suggests this question worked well. Non-response was low at 3.9 per cent and agreement between the answers given in the census and the Census Quality Survey was 99.6 per cent. As a result the question did not change between the 2001 Census (Figure 5.2.1) and pre-testing for the 2007 Census Test.

There were no issues raised by respondents during this phase of testing.

**Figure 5.2.1 - 2001 Census self-contained accommodation question**

**H2** Is your household's accommodation self-contained?

◆ This means that *all* the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet are behind a door that only your household can use.

Yes, all the rooms are behind a door that only our household can use

No

For Wave 1 of the Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test, the qualifier for the 'Yes' option was removed, so the categories were simply 'Yes' and 'No' (Figure 5.2.2).

**Figure 5.2.2 – 2007 Whole Questionnaire Testing Wave 1 question**

**H10** Is your household's accommodation self-contained?

◆ This means that all the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet are behind a door that only your household can use.

Yes  No

In general, respondents were able to answer this question accurately, and referred to the explanation of 'self-contained'. However, not all respondents understood this explanation, although the question appeared to be answered correctly in the interviews conducted.

It had been observed in previous testing that there was a tendency for respondents to skip the question if an explanation was not included with the 'Yes' option. It was also found that an explanation improves clarity.

The explanation was therefore reintroduced for the following phases of testing.

**Figure 5.2.3 – 2007 Whole Questionnaire Testing Wave 2 question**

**H8** Is your household's accommodation self-contained?

◆ This means that all the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet, are behind a door that only your household can use.

Yes, all the rooms are behind a door that only our household can use

No

For Wave 2 of Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test, respondents generally used and referred to the definition of 'self-contained' given in the question, because they did not know what the term meant. After reading the explanation most

respondents had a clear understanding of the term. A respondent, who lived in sheltered (retirement) accommodation, was not immediately clear whether to count their accommodation as 'self-contained', as some of the rooms they had access to were not behind their front door. Therefore it was concluded that there was some risk that interpretations of what counts as self-contained may differ between respondents.

Similar issues arose for the first wave of Welsh language testing (Figure 5.2.4).

**Figure 5.2.4 Welsh language testing Wave 1**

**H8** A yw'ch cartref yn hunan-gynhwysol?

- ◆ Mae hyn yn golygu bod pob ystafell, gan gynnwys y gegin, yr ystafell ymolchi a'r toiled, y tu ôl i ddrws, a dim ond aelodau o'ch cartref sy'n defnyddio'r drws.
- Ydy, mae pob ystafell y tu ôl i ddrws sydd ond yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan aelodau o'n cartref
- Nac ydy

Generally, this question was well understood by respondents. Respondents tended to mention that the guidance note had helped their understanding of the term 'self-contained'. However, in one particular case the respondent misinterpreted the definition and answered incorrectly.

This question was then quantitatively tested in the Lambeth postal test, 2007 postal test and 2007 Census Test. For each of these tests, the same question as in Wave 2 of Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test was used. In each of these tests the question appeared to be answered well. Non-response to this question was low at 1.5, 1.1 and 3.4 per cent for each of the tests respectively.

The question used for Wave 2 of the Whole Questionnaire Testing was also used, in the same format, in the six waves of 2009 Census Rehearsal testing. There were no changes made to this question throughout Waves 1 to 6, apart from layout element changes in Wave 5.

**Figure 5.2.5 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 1 to 6 question**

**H8** Is this household's accommodation self-contained?

- ➔ This means that all the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet, are behind a door that only this household can use
- Yes, all the rooms are behind a door that only this household can use
- No

In Wave 6, it was noted that some non-UK born and lower literacy respondents found this question cognitively demanding and confusing, although they frequently answered correctly. A person who spoke English as a second language incorrectly ticked 'no'. This respondent appeared to be answering the question only for themselves and not the whole household throughout the questionnaire. It was also noted, for processing purposes, that some non-UK born respondents may not answer



this question correctly as they do not understand the term 'household' (although this term is defined earlier in the questionnaire).

This question was further quantitatively tested in the 2008 postal test. The same question as that used in Waves 1 to 6 of 2009 Census Rehearsal testing was used and again this question appeared to work well. Non-response to this question was low at 1.5 per cent. This was also true of the March 2009 postal test with a non-response rate of 1.5 per cent.

This question continued to work well in the final phases of testing for both the English and Welsh language, and generally no issues were raised for this question.

### 5.2.1 Final recommended self-contained accommodation question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

#### Figure 5.2.1.1- Final question for England and Wales (English language version)

**H8** Is this household's accommodation self-contained?

➔ This means that all the rooms, including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet, are behind a door that only this household can use

Yes, all the rooms are behind a door that only this household can use

No

#### Figure 5.2.1.2 – Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)

**H8** A yw'r cartref hwn yn hunan-gynhwysol?

➔ Mae hyn yn golygu bod pob ystafell, gan gynnwys y gegin, yr ystafell ymolchi a'r toiled, y tu ôl i ddrws sydd ddim ond yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan aelodau o'r cartref hwn

Ydy, mae pob ystafell y tu ôl i ddrws sydd ddim ond yn cael ei ddefnyddio gan aelodau o'r cartref hwn

Nac ydy

### 5.3 Number of rooms

In the 2001 Census this question had a non-response rate of 5.4 per cent. Although this is still relatively low, it was the highest of the questions asked on housing.

Problems identified with this question included whether to count the kitchen and the utility room, counting bathrooms, counting through rooms as two rooms, not counting conservatories and not counting box rooms. Agreement between the answers given in the census and the Census Quality Survey was only 77.5 per cent.

As there is still a continuing need for this information, ONS opted to improve the design of the question through testing. The 2001 census question (Figure 5.3.1) was used as starting point for this testing.



**Figure 5.3.1 - 2001 Census question H3** How many rooms do you have for use only by your household?

- ◆ Do not count bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards.
- ◆ Do count all other rooms, for example kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms and studies.
- ◆ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room.

Number of rooms

In pre-testing for the 2007 Census Test, respondents generally found this question burdensome as they had to use mental arithmetic to calculate the number of rooms. They tended to be unsure about their answers and often changed their answers when asked to talk the interviewer through which rooms they had included.

The underlining of the words 'do count' and 'do not count' was removed for Waves 3 and 4 of the pre-testing. Respondents in these waves sometimes got confused about whether to include or exclude a room and appeared to have read the instructions incorrectly. The underlining used in 2001 may have helped to minimise this confusion.

Following the pre-testing for the 2007 Census Test, it was recommended that underlining or some other form of highlighting be used for the 'do count' and 'do not count' instructions. This was actually implemented in Wave 2 of the Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test by putting these phrases in bold text.

**Figure 5.3.2 – 2007 Census Test, Whole Questionnaire Testing Wave 1A question**

**H11** How many rooms do you have for use only by your household?

- ◆ Do not count bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards.
- ◆ Do count all other rooms, for example kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms and studies.
- ◆ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room.

Number of rooms

For Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test (Figure 5.3.2), the instructions explaining which rooms to count and which not to count tended to be read only partially and not very carefully. This led to a number of errors. Investigation revealed that the 'Do count' box was being read as 'Do not count', due to it being

close to and following the 'Do not count' instruction; this resulted in room counts which were too low. As a result the 'Do count' instruction was changed to 'Count' in Wave 1B and the interpretation of the instruction was significantly improved (Figure 5.3.3).

**Figure 5.3.3 – 2007 Whole Questionnaire Testing Wave 1B question**

**H11** How many rooms do you have for use only by your household?

- ◆ Do not count bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards.
- ◆ Count all other rooms, for example kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms and studies.
- ◆ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room.

Number of rooms

There were other aspects of the question which caused some confusion. As in 2001, some respondents did not know whether to include a conservatory, as conservatories were not included in the 'Do not count' or the 'Count' lists. The phrase 'for use' was sometimes interpreted to mean which rooms the respondent used, rather than which rooms the household used. Mental arithmetic was also a problem; respondents did not always add up the number of rooms correctly. This appeared to occur as a result of concentrating on identifying the correct rooms, rather than adding them up accurately. Overall, respondents appeared to struggle with this question, sometimes giving incorrect room counts or making different decisions on which rooms to count.

As a result of these waves of testing the 'Count' instruction was retained instead of 'Do count' in the second instruction. It was also recommended that the 'Do not count' and 'Count' subheadings be enlarged for increased emphasis. This appeared to help respondents answer the question in Wave 2 of Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test, but it was noted that this list of rooms potentially needed expanding to improve the accuracy and comparability of answers.

For both the 2007 postal test and 2007 Census Test the write-in boxes were moved to the left of the text 'Number of rooms', to be consistent with other response boxes on the questionnaire and to increase their visibility (Figure 5.3.4). Non-response for this question in these two tests was low at 1.2 and 3.0 per cent respectively.

**Figure 5.3.4 – 2007 postal test and 2007 Census Test question**

**H9** How many rooms do you have for use only by your household ?

- ◆ Do not count bathrooms, toilets, halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards.
- ◆ Count all other rooms, for example kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms and studies.
- ◆ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room.

Number of rooms

To see how accurate responses to the 2007 Census Test were, responses were linked back to the 2001 Census using data from the ONS Longitudinal Survey. A comparison of households in the same postcode and the same type of

accommodation showed that only 63.9 per cent of matched households had access to the same number of rooms in 2001 and 2007.

Although genuine changes occur (due to property extensions, amalgamation of rooms or moving between properties of the same type in the same postcode) the proportion of all households experiencing a change in room numbers is remarkably high. Since the questions and instructions for counting rooms were similar in 2001 and 2007, it seems likely that some of the differences in numbers occurred because respondents failed to follow the instructions in either 2001 or 2007 or both.

For Wave 3 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing, the layout of the question was altered to try and improve respondent understanding (Figure 5.3.5). The list of rooms to include and not include was changed to a bullet point list and conservatories was added to the list of rooms to include.

A new instruction was also added to aid people with open plan rooms, although this was tested before user requirements on how to count these types of rooms had been clarified.

### Figure 5.3.5 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 3 question

**H9** How many rooms do you have for use only by your household?

Do not count:

- bathrooms
- toilets
- halls or landings
- rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards.

Count all other rooms:

- kitchens
- living rooms
- bedrooms
- utility rooms
- studies
- conservatories

◆ Count open plan rooms like this:  
Kitchen-living room is two rooms,  
Kitchen-living-dining room is three rooms.

Number of rooms

This question generally worked well, with the new bullet points enhancing respondents' ability to count the rooms. Respondents were often observed reading the bullet points and some counted aloud. Some respondents read the new instruction for counting open-plan rooms and adjusted their room counts correctly. However, occasionally respondents read the new instructions and deliberately did not follow them. This was usually because either the open-plan room was such a small space that the respondent felt it was inaccurate to count it as more than one room; or because the rooms were not used for multiple purposes even though they were furnished as such.

The Welsh language equivalent of this Wave 3 question was then tested for the first wave of Welsh language testing (Figure 5.3.6).

**Figure 5.3.6 – Welsh language testing Wave 1**

**H9** Sawl ystafell sydd yn eich cartref at ddefnydd aelodau o'ch cartref yn unig?

Peidiwch â chyfrif:

- ystafelloedd ymolchi
- toiledau
- cynteddau neu landins
- ystafelloedd sydd ond yn cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer storio, fel cypyrddau

Cofiwch gyfrif pob ystafell arall:

- ceginau
- ystafelloedd byw
- ystafelloedd gwely
- ystafelloedd amlbwrpas
- stydis
- ystafelloedd gwydr

◆ Cyfrifwch ystafelloedd sydd â chynllun agored fel hyn:  
Cegin-ystafell fyw yn ddwy ystafell,  
Cegin-ystafell fyw-ystafell fwyta yn dair ystafell.

Nifer yr ystafelloedd

It was found that generally, respondents understood the question, read the instructions, and answered correctly. However, respondents did not understand 'ystafelloedd amlbwrpas' to mean 'utility room', and occasionally did not include utility rooms because of this misunderstanding. Therefore the term was amended to 'ystafelloedd amlbwrpas/iwtiliti' for the next wave of testing. It was also found that respondents understood the meaning of the phrase 'ystafelloedd sydd â chynllun agored' ('open plan rooms'), but did not always read the instruction.

The instruction for open plan rooms was re-worded for Wave 5 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing. This followed a clarification in information needs and the need for continuity with 2001 Census data (Figure 5.3.6).

**Figure 5.3.7 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 5 question**

**H10** How many rooms do you have for use only by this household?

➔ Do not count:

- bathrooms
- toilets
- halls or landings
- rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards

➔ Count all other rooms, including:

- kitchens
- living rooms
- utility rooms
- bedrooms
- studies
- conservatories

➔ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room.

Number of rooms

Respondents were now asked to count open-plan rooms as one room rather than two. Also, the instruction explaining which rooms respondents should count now had 'including' before the list of rooms to clarify that the examples given are not an exhaustive list.

In general this question worked well, with most respondents reading and understanding the instructions and able to provide the correct answer. To work out their answer respondents sometimes counted on their fingers, visualised walking through the house, or wrote in numbers next to the bullet points on the question. Frequently respondents with open-plan rooms and accommodation read and understood the instructions for this type of accommodation and calculated their answer correctly. Therefore it appeared that the change in the instruction for counting open-plan rooms improved respondents' understanding of the question.

For Wave 6 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing the instruction 'count all rooms including...' was changed to 'count all other rooms, for example...', in order to harmonise with the question being asked in Scotland and the question asked in the 2001 Census.

No other changes were made to the 'Number of rooms' question between Waves 5 and 6. However, the results in this wave were different due to the larger number of lower literacy and non-UK born respondents. The 'available for use' instruction posed problems for some non-UK born and lower literacy respondents, for example some excluded rooms that they did not personally use, and one respondent decided to only count the rooms that they 'lived in' and excluded the sitting room.

The question appeared cognitively demanding for some respondents even though they read the instructions and included the correct types of rooms. Sometimes when respondents were asked to describe the rooms they had counted they realised they had made a mistake, even if they had counted the correct types of rooms. The lack of understanding of 'household' also affected this question. Some non-UK born respondents were unsure whether to answer in relation to themselves only, so included the rooms which only they used.

For the second wave of Welsh language testing, respondents with open plan rooms correctly counted these as one room. Respondents understood the term 'ystafelloedd amlbwrpas/iwtiliti' to mean 'utility rooms' and commented that there was no need for 'amlbwrpas'. Consequently, this term was amended to 'ystafelloedd iwtiliti'.

Overall, this question worked well for UK-born, high literacy respondents. It did not work particularly well for non-UK born and lower literacy respondents and is cognitively demanding due to the need for calculations. Also, open-plan rooms were reported inconsistently; some respondents chose to count open plan spaces as one room and others as two rooms.

It is recognised that with changes in modern living conditions and the increase in 'loft style' open plan accommodation, it can be difficult for respondents to understand how to count open plan rooms. However the current wording of the instruction for open plan rooms is important for maintaining continuity with previous censuses and comparability with other government surveys.

The question was tested in the 2008 and the March 2009 postal test and was found to work well. In both tests non-response was low at 2.6 and 2.7 per cent respectively.

In the final phases of testing there were generally no issues raised for this question.

### 5.3.1 Final recommended number of rooms question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

#### Figure 5.3.1.1 - Final question for England and Wales (English language version)

**H9** How many rooms are available for use only by this household?

↪ Do NOT count:

- bathrooms
- toilets
- halls or landings
- rooms that can only be used for storage such as cupboards

↪ Count all other rooms, for example:

- kitchens
- living rooms
- utility rooms
- bedrooms
- studies
- conservatories

↪ If two rooms have been converted into one, count them as one room

Number of rooms

#### Figure 5.3.1.2 - Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)

**H9** Sawl ystafell sydd yn y cartref hwn at ddefnydd aelodau o'r cartref hwn yn unig?

↪ PEIDIWCH â chyfrif:

- ystafelloedd ymolchi
- toiledau
- cynteddau neu landins
- ystafelloedd sydd ddim ond yn gallu cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer storio, fel cypyrddau

↪ Cofiwch gyfrif pob ystafell arall, er enghraifft:

- ceginau
- ystafelloedd byw
- ystafelloedd iwtiliti
- ystafelloedd gwely
- stydis
- ystafelloedd gwydr

↪ Os bydd dwy ystafell wedi'u cyfuno i fod yn un, cyfrifwch nhw yn un ystafell

Nifer yr ystafelloedd

## 5.4 Number of bedrooms

A question on the number of bedrooms has not previously been included in the census. Testing for this question began at Wave 4 of Census Rehearsal Testing, the question used can be seen in Figure 5.4.1 below.

**Figure 5.4.1 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 4 question**

**H9** How many bedrooms do you have for use only by your household?

◆ Count all rooms furnished as bedrooms

Number of bedrooms

The question appeared to work well. Most respondents were able to answer this question and describe what they had decided to count for this question. The use of the word 'furnished' caused one respondent to not count an attic room as a bedroom because it currently was not furnished as such.

This was the first wave which tested this question, so the question was recommended for further testing in Wave 5 with respondents who live in a range of accommodation, including those who live in bedsits.

In order to aid question design and following results of Wave 4 testing, clarification on user requirements was sought to see whether this question should be asking for rooms 'designed' to be used as bedrooms instead of one which asks for those 'furnished' as bedrooms.

**Figure 5.4.2 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 5 question**

**H11** How many of these rooms were designed for use as a bedroom?

➔ Include all rooms built or converted for use as bedrooms, even if they are not currently used as bedrooms.

Number of bedrooms

Following clarification of user requirements the question was re-worded to 'How many of these rooms are designed as bedrooms?' and the instruction was also changed. The majority of respondents understood this question and interpreted the term 'designed for use' correctly, so gave an appropriate answer. However, some respondents did not understand the concept; occasionally respondents understood 'designed for use' to mean any room that contains a bed, which is not necessarily accurate. This question proved difficult for a respondent who lived in a very large shared house and did not know how many bedrooms there were in the house; another respondent who lived in a bedsit incorrectly counted their bedroom as a separate room, despite the fact that his accommodation only consisted of one room.

No changes were made to the number of bedrooms question between Waves 5 and 6. As in Wave 5, the majority of respondents understood this question and provided an appropriate answer. Respondents correctly included bedrooms that were being used for another purpose.



Overall, this question was understood and answered appropriately by respondents with homes which have not had alterations or changes. Non-UK born and lower literacy respondents found this question difficult and were sometimes unable to answer correctly, partly because 'designed for use' is a hard concept for these respondents to understand. Similarly, asking for the number of rooms 'designed for use', and then asking for 'built or converted' rooms is potentially confusing to respondents. There are several concepts to consider concurrently; designed for use, built for use, converted for use and not being used. It was concluded that it is unnecessary to have 'designed for use' in the question itself, and if used at all, it should be consistent with the term in the instruction, i.e. 'built for use'.

This question was first tested in Welsh for Wave 2 of Welsh language testing (Figure 5.4.3). This question was the equivalent of the Wave 6 English language question.

**Figure 5.4.3 – Welsh language testing Wave 2**

**H10** Faint o'r ystafelloedd hyn a gafodd eu cynllunio i'w defnyddio fel ystafelloedd gwely?

➔ Dylech gynnwys bob ystafell a gafodd ei hadeiladu neu ei throsi i'w defnyddio fel ystafell wely, hyd yn oed os na chaiff ei defnyddio fel ystafell wely ar hyn o bryd

Nifer yr ystafelloedd gwely

As found for the English language testing, respondents tended to include bedrooms that were used for another purpose, but occasionally answered incorrectly. A respondent suggested that the word 'designed' was confusing, and felt that the wording should refer to what the room was originally intended to be.

As a result of Wave 6 testing, the question wording was changed for the March 2009 postal test to 'How many of these rooms are bedrooms?', while the instruction remained the same (Figure 5.4.4). In this test a non-response rate of 1.9 per cent was observed.

**Figure 5.4.4 – 2009 March postal test question**

**H10** How many of these rooms are bedrooms ?

➔ Include all rooms built or converted for use as bedrooms, even if they are not currently used as bedrooms

Number of bedrooms

This question was tested in the Wave 7 and Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2011 Census and generally no issues arose for this question.



### 5.4.1 Final recommended number of bedrooms question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

#### Figure 5.4.1.1 - Final question for England and Wales (English language version)

**H10** How many of these rooms are bedrooms?

➤ Include all rooms built or converted for use as bedrooms, even if they are not currently used as bedrooms

Number of bedrooms

#### Figure 5.4.1.2 - Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)

**H10** Faint o'r ystafelloedd hyn sy'n ystafelloedd gwely?

➤ Dylech gynnwys pob ystafell a gafodd ei hadeiladu neu ei throï i'w defnyddio fel ystafell wely, hyd yn oed os nad yw'n cael ei defnyddio fel ystafell wely ar hyn o bryd

Nifer yr ystafelloedd gwely

### 5.5 Type of central heating

In the 2001 Census non-response to this question was low at 2.6 per cent and agreement between the answers given in the census and the Census Quality Survey was 99.0 per cent. Some respondents had difficulty answering this question when central heating was not in all the respondent's rooms.

In testing prior to Wave 2 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing, the 2001 Census question was used (Figure 5.5.1).

#### Figure 5.5.1 - 2001 Census question

**H6** Does your accommodation have central heating?

◆ If you have central heating available, ✓ 'Yes' whether or not you use it.

◆ Central heating includes:

- gas, oil or solid fuel central heating
- night storage heaters
- warm air heating
- underfloor heating

Yes, in some or all rooms

No

Initial testing showed that generally respondents were able to answer this question accurately. On the few occasions when a respondent's central heating was not currently working, they were unsure how to answer as they did not know whether it could be described as 'available'. Also where a respondent's first language was not English the term 'central' in this context was not always fully understood.

Results from Wave 1 of 2009 Census Rehearsal testing showed that the meaning of the term 'central heating' was sometimes misunderstood. Some respondents thought it was referring to some collective heating system that served their whole building, so incorrectly ticked that they had no central heating. The problem appeared to be caused by the term 'central', as had previously been suggested in earlier testing.

Between Wave 1 and 2 of Census Rehearsal Testing, this question was tested in the 2007 Postal test and 2007 Census Test. Again the same question was used as in the 2001 Census. The question appeared to work well and non-response was low at 2.9 and 3.4 per cent respectively.

Between Wave 1 and 2 Census Rehearsal testing, further user consultation took place which identified the need to obtain information on the different types of central heating in households. As a result this question changed considerably between Waves 1 and 2. The 'Yes/No' tick boxes were replaced by a format to 'Tick all that apply', which also collects information on the types of fuels used for heating (Figure 5.5.2).

A write-in box was provided for the 'Other' category as a check to see whether there were any other common fuels types that warranted their own category on the question. However this did not happen and the write-in box was removed in later testing.

**Figure 5.5.2 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 2 question**

**H9** What heating is available in this accommodation ?

◆ Tick all that apply

- None
- Gas
- Electric
- Oil
- Bottled Gas
- Solid Fuel
- Other, write in below

Respondents were generally able to understand the question and provide an appropriate answer. Occasionally however, respondents were unsure what type of fuel their heating system used and simply made a guess. As a result of this their answer may have been incorrect.

This question was altered slightly for Wave 3. The question now asked about central heating type rather than heating type. Also, the category 'none' was changed to 'no central heating' and the 'bottled gas' category was removed (Figure 5.5.3).

**Figure 5.5.3 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 3 question**

**H10** What type of central heating does this accommodation have ?

◆ Tick all that apply

No central heating

Gas

Electric

Oil

Solid Fuel

Other central heating, write in

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Most respondents were able to understand the question and provide an appropriate answer. As in Wave 2, a few respondents were unsure what type of fuel their heating system used, which may have resulted in incorrect responses. A respondent who did not have central heating stated that they found inclusion of the term ‘central heating’ useful for clarification purposes.

The equivalent Welsh language version of this question was also tested (Figure 5.5.4).

**Figure 5.5.4 – Welsh language testing Wave 1**

**H10** Pa fath o wres canolog sydd yn y cartref hwn?

◆ Ticiwch bob un sy'n berthnasol

Dim gwres canolog

Nwy

Trydan

Olew

Tanwydd solet

Gwres canolog arall, ysgrifennwch isod

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

As found in the English testing, respondents were generally able to understand the question and provide an appropriate answer, although some were unsure what type of fuel their heating system used. However, respondents did not understand the term ‘tanwydd solet’ (solid fuel); some interpreted it to mean ‘solar power’, and others did not understand the meaning of the English term either. Therefore, it was recommended that examples of solid fuel should be provided for this response option.

No changes were made to this question for Wave 4. Most respondents could understand the question and provide an appropriate answer. Once again, a few respondents were unsure what type of fuel their heating system used. Occasionally respondents from overseas were unsure whether they had central heating or not. Some respondents correctly selected that they did not have central heating, but they also incorrectly selected that their fuel type was ‘electric’ because they had electric heaters which they could plug into each room.

For Wave 5 of Census Rehearsal testing, the write-in box for this question was removed for the reasons given earlier. For Wave 6 a second instruction was added, 'If any central heating is available, tick the box whether or not you use it', and an example was added for 'solid fuel'. As previously explained the examples for solid fuel were added to aid comprehension for the Welsh language version of the questionnaire as the Welsh term for 'solid fuel' had been misunderstood to mean 'solar power'.

**Figure 5.5.5 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 6 question**

**H11** What type of central heating does this accommodation have?

- ➔ Tick all that apply
- ➔ If any central heating is available, tick the box whether or not you use it
- No central heating
- Gas
- Electric
- Oil
- Solid fuel (for example wood, coal)
- Other central heating

This question continued to perform well during Wave 6 for UK born, higher literacy respondents, but lower literacy and non-UK born respondents in this wave had some difficulties. In particular, respondents were unsure whether to include storage heating, and some included it under 'electric' whilst others did not.

As a result of this wave of testing, additional instructions were added to the 'Electric' category to 'include storage heaters' as well as a definition of central heating. To fit this additional information in, the two instructions of 'Tick all that apply' and 'If any central heating is available, tick the box whether or not you use it', were combined into one instruction.

These changes were made in time for the March 2009 postal test (Figure 5.5.6). The question appeared to work well in this test and non-response was low at 1.5 per cent.

**Figure 5.5.6 – March 2009 postal test question**

**H11** What type of central heating does this accommodation have?

- ➔ Tick all that apply, whether or not you use it
- ➔ Central heating is a central system that generates heat for multiple rooms
- No central heating
- Gas
- Electric (including storage heaters)
- Oil
- Solid fuel (for example wood, coal)
- Other central heating

The remaining phases of testing, in both English and Welsh, did not identify any further issues with this question.

### 5.5.1 Final recommended central heating question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

#### Figure 5.5.1.1 - Final question for England and Wales (English language version)

**H11** What type of central heating does this accommodation have?

- Tick all that apply, whether or not you use it
- Central heating is a central system that generates heat for multiple rooms
- No central heating
- Gas
- Electric (including storage heaters)
- Oil
- Solid fuel (for example wood, coal)
- Other central heating

#### Figure 5.5.1.2 - Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)

**H11** Pa fath o wres canolog sydd yn y cartref hwn?

- Tidiwch bob blwch sy'n berthnasol, hyd yn oed os nad ydych yn defnyddio'r gwres canolog
- System ganolog, sy'n cynhyrchu gwres ar gyfer nifer o ystafelloedd, yw gwres canolog
- Dim gwres canolog
- Nwy
- Trydan (gan gynnwys gwresogyddion stôr)
- Olew
- Tanwydd solet (er enghraifft coed, glo)
- Math arall o wres canolog

### 5.6 Tenure

This question generally worked well in the 2001 Census (Figure 5.6.1). Non-response was low at 3.9 per cent and agreement between census responses and the Census Quality Survey was 95.9 per cent. Some problems were identified for the 'Lives here rent free category' as some respondents who had their rent paid with housing benefit, ticked this box instead of the correct 'Rents' category.

**Figure 5.6.1 – 2001 Census question**

**H8** Does your household own or rent the accommodation?

◆ ✓ *one box only.*

- Owns outright  
▶ Go to **H10**
- Owns with a mortgage or loan  
▶ Go to **H10**
- Pays part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership)  
▶ Go to **H10**
- Rents  
▶ Go to **H9**
- Lives here rent free  
▶ Go to **H9**

The 2001 Census question was used as a starting point for pre-testing for the 2007 Census Test. This question primarily caused problems for unrelated households, where one person in the household owned the house but rented rooms to their housemates. Respondents in this situation ticked the tenure category that applied to themselves.

The layout of this question was altered before Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test took place, although the content remained the same. The same version was tested in both Wave 1 and Wave 2 (Figure 5.6.2).

**Figure 5.6.2 – 2007 Whole Questionnaire Testing – Waves 1 & 2**

**H15** Does your household own or rent the accommodation?

◆ Tick one box only.

- Owns outright → Go to **NEXT PAGE**
- Owns with a mortgage or loan → Go to **NEXT PAGE**
- Pays part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership) → Go to **NEXT PAGE**
- Rents
- Lives here rent free

The results from these waves of testing showed that this question worked reasonably well as respondents generally answered easily and correctly. However, two main issues arose: routing and uncertainty over tenure. With regard to routing, respondents who selected one of the first three options sometimes missed the routing that allowed them to skip the landlord question.

For the 2007 Census Test the question (Figure 5.6.3) appeared to work quite well. Non-response and invalid multiple responses were low at 3.4 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively. The percentage of respondents who did not follow the routing and incorrectly answered the following landlord question was relatively low at 3.5 per cent. This error can be easily corrected when the census data is processed.

**Figure 5.6.3 – 2007 Census Test question**

**H11** Does your household own or rent the accommodation?

◆ Tick one box only.

- Owns outright → Go to **H13**
- Owns with a mortgage or loan → Go to **H13**
- Pays part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership) → Go to **H13**
- Rents
- Lives here rent free

For Wave 2 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing, the category 'Pays part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership)' was changed to 'Part own and part rent (shared ownership)' (Figure 5.6.4). This was to improve respondent understanding of the category.

**Figure 5.6.4 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 2 question**

**H10** Does your household own or rent this accommodation?

◆ Tick one box only.

- Owns outright → Go to **H12**
- Owns with a mortgage or loan → Go to **H12**
- Part own and part rent (shared ownership) → Go to **H12**
- Rents
- Lives here rent free

This question worked well for respondents who owned their own homes or paid their rent directly to a landlord, but it was confusing for some respondents who did not personally pay the rent. For example, several respondents had their rent paid by government organisations (housing benefit) and were unsure whether to tick 'Rents' or 'Lives here rent free'. This problem was also highlighted in 2001.

For Wave 3, following clarification of user needs, the instruction 'with or without housing benefit' was added to the 'Rents' category.

**Figure 5.6.5 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 3 question**

**H11** Does your household own or rent this accommodation?

◆ Tick one box only.

Owns outright → Go to **H13**

Owns with a mortgage or loan → Go to **H13**

Part own and part rent (shared ownership) → Go to **H13**

Rents (with or without housing benefit)

Lives here rent free

This question generally worked well, with most respondents able to understand the question and provide an appropriate answer. A small proportion of respondents were unsure about which option they should select.

The Welsh language equivalent of this Wave 3 question was then tested (Figure 5.6.6).

**Figure 5.6.6 – Welsh language testing Wave 1**

**H11** A yw aelodau o'ch cartref yn berchen ar y cartref hwn neu'n ei rentu?

◆ Ticiwch un blwch yn unig.

Yn berchen arno'n gyfan gwbl → Ewch i **H13**

Yn berchen arno gyda morgais neu fenthyciad → Ewch i **H13**

Yn berchen arno'n rhannol ac yn ei rentu'n rhannol → Ewch i **H13**

Yn rhentu (gyda chymorth budd-dal tai neu hebddo)

Yn byw yma heb dalu rhent

A respondent, who rented from the home owner (who also lived in the accommodation) answered the question correctly, but felt that the wording of the question in Welsh was confusing. They felt that the Welsh question, which translates to 'Do members of your home own or rent this home?' implied that all members of the home must own the accommodation. Therefore, this question was then amended to 'Does a member or members of this home...' in Welsh.

Respondents tended to understand the phrase 'yn berchen arno'n rhannol ac yn ei rentu'n rhannol' (part own and part rent) but occasionally misinterpreted it. A respondent suggested that the term 'shared ownership' should be included in this response option, as for the English. This change was implemented for a later wave of testing.

Following further consultation with users on their requirements, the routing arrow for the 'Part own and part rent (shared ownership)' category was removed from Wave 5 testing (Figure 5.6.7). This was done so that we could obtain information about these respondents's 'Type of landlord' from the following question.



**Figure 5.6.7 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 5 question**

**H13** Does your household own or rent this accommodation?

➔ Tick one box only

Owns outright **GO TO** **H15**

Owns with a mortgage or loan **GO TO** **H15**

Part owns and part rents (shared ownership)

Rents (with or without housing benefit)

Lives here rent free

Waves 5 and 6 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing showed that the question was generally working well. The question was tested in the 2008 and March 2009 postal tests. Non-response to this question was low in both tests at 2.2 and 2.3 per cent respectively. The percentage of respondents ticking more than one response in error was also low at 0.0 and 0.1 per cent, as was the number of respondents not following the routing instructions at 1.3 and 1.0 per cent.

This question continued to work well in the final phases of testing in both English and Welsh.

### 5.6.1 Final recommended tenure question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

#### Figure 5.6.1.1 - Final question for England and Wales (English language version)

**H12** Does your household own or rent this accommodation?

➤ Tick one box only

- Owns outright ➔ Goto **H14**
- Owns with a mortgage or loan ➔ Goto **H14**
- Part owns and part rents (shared ownership)
- Rents (with or without housing benefit)
- Lives here rent free

#### Figure 5.6.1.2 - Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)

**H12** A yw aelod neu aelodau o'ch cartref yn berchen ar y cartref hwn neu'n ei rentu?

➤ Ticiwch un blwch yn unig

- Yn berchen arno'n gyfan gwbl ➔ Ewch i **H14**
- Yn berchen arno gyda morgais neu fenthyciad ➔ Ewch i **H14**
- Yn berchen arno'n rhannol ac yn ei rentu'n rhannol (cynllun rhan-berchenogaeth)
- Yn ei rentu (gyda chymorth budd-dal tai neu hebddo)
- Yn byw yma heb dalu rhent

### 5.7 Type of landlord

Evidence from the 2001 Census showed that non-response to this question was 2.9 per cent and agreement between the census responses and Census Quality Survey was 96.5 per cent. It was identified that in some areas where all council properties had been transferred to other social landlords, some households still reported their tenure as council rented.

**Figure 5.7.1 - 2001 Census question  
H9 Who is your landlord?**

- Council (Local Authority)
- Housing Association  
Housing Co-operative  
Charitable Trust  
Registered Social Landlord
- Private landlord or letting agency
- Employer of a household member
- Relative or friend of a household member
- Other

This 2001 Census question was used for pre-testing for the 2007 Census Test (Figure 5.7.1). Respondents were generally able to answer this question easily and accurately. However, respondents whose houses were currently owned by the council but were in the process of being transferred to another landlord (e.g. Housing Association) were unsure which category to choose. This question also caused difficulty for respondents whose properties were owned by a university but were not halls of residence.

The question remained unchanged in the next three phases of testing. The question generally continued to work well and was answered easily. Sometimes respondents were unsure, but this was usually when the respondent was not actually the householder and was therefore less likely to be the person completing the questionnaire on census night. A few respondents tried to answer the question in error after missing the routing instruction in the previous tenure question. These issues also arose in the first wave of Welsh language testing.

This question was again tested in the same format for the 2007 Census Test where it performed well with a low rate of non-response and invalid multi-ticked responses at 0.8 and 0.2 per cent respectively.

From Wave 2 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing, the order of the categories was altered slightly, so that 'Housing Association, Housing Co-operative, Charitable Trust, Registered Social Landlord' was the first category and 'Council' was the second. This change was made in order to reflect changes in the proportions of people living in these types of accommodation since 2001.

For Waves 5 and 6, the instruction 'tick one box only' was added to this question (Figure 5.7.2). There were no other changes made to this question. This question continued to perform well.

**Figure 5.7.2 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Waves 5 and 6 question**

**H13** Who is your landlord?

↻ Tick one box only

- Housing Association, Housing Co-operative, Charitable Trust, Registered Social Landlord
- Council (Local Authority)
- Private landlord or letting agency
- Employer of a household member
- Relative or friend of a household member
- Other

The Wave 5 and 6 version of the question was tested in the 2008 and March 2009 postal tests. Non-response rates were low at 1.2 and 1.6 per cent respectively and invalid multi-ticked responses were also low at 0.2 and 0.0 per cent.

This question continued to perform well in the final phases of testing for both the English language and the Welsh language.

### 5.7.1 Final recommended type of landlord question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

#### Figure 5.7.1.1 - Final question for England and Wales (English language version)

**H13** Who is your landlord?

↻ Tick one box only

- Housing association, housing co-operative, charitable trust, registered social landlord
- Council (local authority)
- Private landlord or letting agency
- Employer of a household member
- Relative or friend of a household member
- Other

#### Figure 5.7.1.2 - Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)

**H13** Pwy yw eich landlord?

↻ Ticiwch un blwch yn unig

- Cymdeithas dai, cwmni tai cydweithredol, ymddiriedolaeth elusennol, landlord cymdeithasol cofrestredig
- Y cyngor (awdurdod lleol)
- Landlord preifat neu asiantaeth gosod tai
- Cyflogwr aelod o'r cartref
- Perthynas neu ffrind i aelod o'r cartref
- Arall

## 5.8 Number of vehicles

In the 2001 Census non-response to this question was 3.9 per cent and agreement between answers in the census and the Census Quality Survey was 95.9 per cent. The most common difficulties identified in 2001 were whether to include a vehicle that is 'off the road' and whether to record that a car is available when it is shared by another household member.

The 2001 Census question was used for pre-testing and Whole Questionnaire Testing for the 2007 Census Test and Waves 1 and 2 of 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing (Figure 5.8.1).

### Figure 5.8.1 – 2001 Census question

**H7** How many cars or vans are owned, or available for use, by one or more members of your household?

◆ Include any company car or van if available for private use.

None

One

Two

Three

Four or more, *please write in number*

The results of this testing showed that respondents living in households where all vehicles were owned by members of the household, tended to answer accurately. Some respondents did not know whether or not to include cars they 'had use of' which were not owned by their household. The wording of this question also caused confusion, as respondents were not sure whether it meant that everyone in the household had to be able to use the cars.

The question ordering was changed after these phases of testing in order to create a more logical flow of topics. The question was moved to the end of all the housing questions.

This question was tested in both the 2007 postal test and the 2007 Census Test. The question appeared to work well and non-response was low for the two tests at 1.4 and 2.8 per cent respectively.

For Wave 2 of 2009 Census Rehearsal testing, the question wording was modified to include the phrase 'In total' at the start of the question and the phrase 'one or more' was removed. This was done to aid respondent comprehension.

**Figure 5.8.2 – 2009 Census Rehearsal Testing Wave 2 question**

**H12** In total, how many cars or vans are owned, or available for use by members of this household?

◆ Include any company car(s) or van(s) available for private use.

None

One

Two

Three

Four or more, write in number

This question generally worked well in the next phases of testing for both the English and Welsh language, and respondents were able to count and record the number of vehicles used by members of their household accurately. Some respondents were unsure whether to include motorbikes and some thought that they should only count cars or vans that they owned and not those that were also available for use by the household. A help topic will be available on the 2011 Census website and through the census helpline to explain not to include motorbikes.

This question was tested in the 2008 and March 2009 postal tests and again appeared to work well. There was a minor change to the question used in the March 2009 postal test in that the category numbers that were written in words were changed to numeric characters instead. This was in line with other changes made to the questionnaire. Non-response for the two tests was low at 2.6 and 2.9 per cent respectively.

The only issue that arose for this question concerned vehicles that respondents had issued a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) for. A couple of respondents owned vehicles that had been 'SORNed', and both incorrectly decided to include them in this question. This issue was raised for the 2001 Census. A specific help topic will be available on the census website and the census helpline explaining that SORN vehicles should not be included.

### 5.8.1 Final recommended number of vehicles question

The questions below are recommended for the 2011 Census subject to approval by Parliament through the legislative process.

#### Figure 5.8.1.1 - Final question for England and Wales (English language version)

**H14** In total, how many cars or vans are owned, or available for use, by members of this household?

↻ Include any company car(s) or van(s) available for private use

None

1

2

3

4 or more, write in number

#### Figure 5.8.1.2 - Final question for Wales (Welsh language version)

**H14** Sawl car neu fan sy'n eiddo i aelodau o'ch cartref, neu sydd ar gael i'w defnyddio ganddynt?

↻ Dylech gynnwys unrhyw gar (geir) neu fan (faniau) cwmni os yw ar gael at ddefnydd preifat

Dim un

1

2

3

4 neu fwy, nodwch y nifer

## 6. Justification and impact of changes since the 2001 Census

This section provides justification for any changes to the questions since the 2001 Census and examines the effect that these changes might have on the comparability of data.

There have only been a few changes to these questions compared to the 2001 Census.

The central heating question now asks for the type of central heating a household has, compared to whether the household had central heating in 2001.

The number of rooms question now explicitly asks respondents to count conservatories. While conservatories should have been counted in 2001, they weren't listed in the example that showed the types of room to count.

The tenure question now requires households that select 'Part owns and part rents (shared ownership)' to answer the following landlord question. The wording 'with or without housing benefit' has been added to the 'Rents' category.

The remaining housing questions have only had minor wording revisions. All of the above changes have been made in order to improve the quality of the data collected and to meet the user requirements for the 2011 Census. The changes are not expected to have large effect on the comparability of the 2011 Census to previous census results. However work on census outputs is still in the early stages and the impact of these changes is still being considered.

## 7. Recommended question ordering

All the questions on housing are located together on the questionnaire as they are clearly linked and related. The question on number of bedrooms immediately follows the question about number of rooms, as the number of bedrooms question refers to the number of rooms stated in the previous response.

The landlord question immediately follows that on tenure as the two questions are linked. If respondents answer either 'Part owns and part rents (shared ownership)', 'Rents (with or without housing benefit)' or 'Lives here rent free' in the tenure question, they are required to answer the landlord question that follows. However if they answer 'Owns outright' or 'Owns with a mortgage or loan' in the tenure question, they are routed past the landlord question (as this is not relevant to them), to the number of vehicles question.

Apart from the question on number of vehicles, which has moved to the end of the housing questions for reasons of space, the questions are in the same order as they appeared in 2001. No problems were identified with this question ordering in 2001 or in testing for the 2011 Census.